Government of Manipur have also informed that they have sent a proposal to the Ministry of Rural Development for assistance towards rehabilitation of affected persons.

Statehood for Delhi

786. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken to grant Statehood to Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Strengthening Police Forces of North-Eastern States

787. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken to strengthen police forces of the North-Eastern States to phase out Army's involvement in counter-insurgency operation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Central Government has been providing assistance for modernisation of police forces in North Eastern States. Under the Special scheme for modernisation of police forces in North Eastern States, arms and ammunition and vehicles costing Rs. 35 crores have been provided in kind during 1997-98. Under the general scheme for modernisation of police forces, an amount of Rs. 9,85,92,000 has been released during 1997-98 to North Eastern States.

Bomb Explostions in the Country

788. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bomb explosions in the country during the last three years, State-wise, and agencies involved and the number of persons apprehended in connection with such blasts;

(b) whether investigations revealed involvement of ISI inciting terrorism against India within her territory and abroad; and

(c) if so, the details of such involvement and action initiated by Government to deal with such attempt in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of Assam Accord

789. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-frame for clause-wise implementation of Assam Accord has been finalised by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of Indo-Bangladesh Border along Assam that has been completely sealed to prevent infiltration from across the border; and

(d) the reasons for slow progress in sealing the broder as envisaged in Assam Accord?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Action has been taken to implement all the provisions of the Assam Accord. However, certain provisions of the Accord are of continuing nature e.g. speedy all round economic development of Assam, measures to prevent infiltrators crossing/attempting to cross the border, etc. and therefore, it is not possible to specify and time-frame by which all the provisions could be implemented.

(c) 83% of sanctioned border fencing of 158 kms. has been completed on Assam-Bangladesh border.

(d) The main reason for slow progress of construction of a fence in Assam Sector is reported to be inadequate availability of funds.

Pakistani Assistance to Insurgents

790. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that Pakistan is assisting insurgents in Bihar, Assam, Manipur and Nagaland; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?